

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 PM-07 INT-08 RSR-01 SCS-03 CG-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCA-01 /064 W

----- 114591

R 010132Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7771

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MX

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF U.S. SHRIMP VESSELS RONALD

KEITH AND MASTER W II

REF: MEXICO 6379

1. FOLLOWING INQUIRIES BY FISHATT, MEDINA NERI'S  
OFFICE CONTACTED TUXPAN TO INFORM LOCAL OFFICIAL  
THAT FINAL DECISION ON ANY PENALTY WOULD BE MADE IN  
MEXICO CITY.

2. RECORDS OF THE HEARINGS ARRIVED IN MEXICO CITY  
YESTERDAY AND A MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN MEDINA NERI AND  
NAVY OFFICIALS. ARRESTING NAVAL VESSEL GAVE POSITION  
OF BOTH SHRIMPERS AS LESS THAN 8 MILES FROM SHORE. THIS  
WAS ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF A VIOLATION AND THERE FOLLOWED  
WHAT WAS DESCRIBED TO FISHATT AS REAL BATTLE BETWEEN  
NAVY AND MEDINA NERI OVER AMOUNT OF FINE. NAVY WANTED  
MAXIMUM FINE (GQU\$24,000) TO SET EXAMPLE AND DISCOURAGE  
FUTURE VIOLATIONS. MEDINA NERI IS REPORTED TO HAVE  
SAID "THESE PEOPLE ARE OUR FRIENDS ANDSLE WANT TO CONTINUE  
TO LIVE WITH THEM, THEREFORE FINE SHOULD BE  
MINIMUM (US\$6,000)." FINE WAS SET AT  
\$6,000 OVER NAVY PROTEST WITH PROMISE THAT IF

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THERE ARE CONTINUED VIOLATIONS MEDINA NERI WILL

RECONSIDER HIS POSITION.

3. IN ADDITION TO \$6,000 FINE PER BOAT THERE IS A CHARGE BY THE NAVY BASED ON TONNAGE OF BOAT AND QUANTITY OF SHRIMP ABOARD. IN THIS CASE THE CHARGE AMOUNTS TO A LITTLE OVER \$1,000 ADDITIONAL FOR EACH VESSEL.

4. THE LOCAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN TUXPAN HAS ALSO ENTERED THE ACT AND ASSESSED A FINE OF DOUBLE THE NAVY CHARGES. BOAT OWNERS COMPLAINING THAT THIS IS UNJUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT HAD TO PAY SUCH CHARGES IN OTHER PORTS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN SEIZED.

5. EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED TO TEXAS SHRIMP ASSOCIATION THAT FINES AND PENALTIES BE PAID WITHOUT FURTHER PROTEST SO BOATS CAN BE RELEASED. LATER THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE IN TUXPAN CAN APPEAL THE LOCAL CHARGES IF THEY WISH. TEXAS SHRIMP ASSOC. WILL FOLLOW THIS ADVICE AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT FINES WILL BE PAID ON TUESDAY WHEN U.S. BANKS REOPEN.

6. TEXAS SHRIMP ASSOCIATION ADVISED TO IMPRESS UPON ITS MEMBERS THAT ALTHOUGH MINIMUM FINE IMPOSED IN THIS CASE NOT TO ASSUME SAME WILL BE TRUE NEXT TIME.  
MCBRIDE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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